



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM LABOR



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751
407-648-6013 • (407-648-6029 FAX) • www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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Florida

During the reference week of April 7-13, average agricultural wage rates were \$11.00 per hour for all hired workers, \$10.05 for field workers, and \$10.70 for livestock workers. There were a total of 48,000 hired workers. During the week, light to moderate rain throughout the State was not enough to alleviate Florida's abnormally dry conditions. Peanuts, field corn, and vegetables were planted in the Panhandle, while sugarcane harvest was winding down. Harvesting of cabbage in central Florida and vegetables in south Florida was well underway, as was the Valencia orange and grapefruit harvest.

During the reference week of January 6-12, average agricultural wage rates were \$10.88 per hour for all hired workers, \$9.75 for field workers, and \$10.85 for livestock workers. This time in January, there was a total of 43,000 hired workers. During the week, record high temperatures in south Florida and very little rainfall throughout the State were reported. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that Florida was 46 percent abnormally dry compared to 91 percent the previous year. Vegetable growers were planting spring watermelons and continued to harvest tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, squash, cucumbers, and a variety of specialty items. Harvest of early and midseason oranges continued at a heavy pace. Forty-one packinghouses and 18 processors were open and shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate.

United States

April Hired Workers Down Over 2 Percent, Wage Rates Increase Over 4 Percent From Previous Year

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 732,000 for the reference week of April 7-13, 2013, down 2 percent from the April 2012 reference week. There were 596,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2013, up 4 percent from the January 2012 reference week. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.91 per hour during the April 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.92 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$11.46, up 51 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.10 per hour, was up 48 cents from a year earlier. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.3 hours during the April 2013 reference week, compared with 39.2 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.02 per hour during the January 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.86 per hour, up 5 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.39 per hour compared with \$10.96 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.07 per hour, was up 49 cents from January 2012. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.7 hours during the January 2013 reference week, compared with 39.6 hours a year earlier.

For the April 2013 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from a year earlier occurred in the Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) regions. In Cornbelt II, continuing strong demand from livestock operations led to an overall increase in workers, despite unfavorable field conditions during the reference week. In the Northeast I region, a jump in demand for greenhouse and vegetable workers, plus unseasonably warm temperatures and favorable field conditions, led to the increase over April 2012.

For the January 2013 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from January 2012 occurred in the Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. The Cornbelt II region saw increased demand for livestock workers, and especially seasonal help, with expanding livestock inventories. Similarly, a jump in labor demand from livestock operations drove the Northeast II increase in workers.

Revision Policy: Farm labor statistics are subject to revision semi-annually and annually. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wage rates for January, April and October 2012 were subject to revision with this report.

Number of Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates - Selected Regions and United States

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

	Florida	Southeast	Delta	Southern Plains	California	United States
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
All hired workers						
April 7-13, 2013	48	33	20	50	158	732
January 6-12, 2013.....	43	24	15	43	134	596
October 7-13, 2012.....	47	29	30	54	166	876
July 8-14, 2012.....	39	30	28	57	176	906
April 8-14, 2012.....	55	36	23	58	156	748
January 8-14, 2012.....	50	26	16	47	135	575
Expected to work						
150 days or more						
April 7-13, 2013	37	27	17	41	138	591
January 6-12, 2013.....	37	19	11	37	116	506
October 7-13, 2012.....	39	22	17	39	133	614
July 8-14, 2012.....	35	22	16	38	146	626
April 8-14, 2012.....	41	26	18	40	137	580
January 8-14, 2012.....	41	20	14	37	112	489
149 days or less						
April 7-13, 2013	11	6	3	9	20	141
January 6-12, 2013.....	6	5	4	6	18	90
October 7-13, 2012.....	8	7	13	15	33	262
July 8-14, 2012.....	4	8	12	19	30	280
April 8-14, 2012.....	14	10	5	18	19	168
January 8-14, 2012.....	9	6	2	10	23	86
Hours worked by all hired workers	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
April 7-13, 2013	40.5	38.2	40.7	39.6	44.1	40.3
January 6-12, 2013.....	40.3	36.9	34.7	38.4	41.0	38.7
October 7-13, 2012.....	37.6	37.0	41.0	39.1	46.5	41.5
July 8-14, 2012.....	39.0	36.6	37.8	37.3	44.6	40.4
April 8-14, 2012.....	36.5	36.4	39.4	40.9	39.8	39.2
January 8-14, 2012.....	38.5	36.1	36.0	37.8	42.8	39.6
Wages by type of worker ¹	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Field						
April 7-13, 2013	10.05	9.71	10.13	10.60	11.10	10.92
January 6-12, 2013.....	9.75	9.59	10.41	10.63	10.60	10.86
October 7-13, 2012.....	9.25	10.03	9.45	10.06	10.70	11.21
July 8-14, 2012.....	9.28	9.72	9.17	9.95	10.75	10.71
April 8-14, 2012.....	10.60	9.61	9.41	9.40	10.55	10.50
January 8-14, 2012.....	10.35	9.64	9.33	9.75	10.08	10.39
Livestock						
April 7-13, 2013	10.70	10.62	9.59	12.22	11.90	11.46
January 6-12, 2013.....	10.85	10.65	9.34	12.18	11.45	11.39
October 7-13, 2012.....	9.90	9.52	9.46	11.40	11.50	10.84
July 8-14, 2012.....	9.50	9.87	9.80	11.29	11.55	10.89
April 8-14, 2012.....	10.35	9.91	10.38	10.00	11.85	10.95
January 8-14, 2012.....	10.65	10.49	10.48	10.36	11.75	10.96
Field and livestock combined						
April 7-13, 2013	10.12	9.94	10.00	11.60	11.25	11.10
January 6-12, 2013.....	9.88	9.96	10.00	11.53	10.80	11.07
October 7-13, 2012.....	9.32	9.90	9.45	10.60	10.81	11.12
July 8-14, 2012.....	9.30	9.75	9.35	10.60	10.85	10.75
April 8-14, 2012.....	10.58	9.67	9.62	9.55	10.83	10.62
January 8-14, 2012.....	10.37	9.81	9.74	9.95	10.42	10.58
All hired worker wage rate						
April 7-13, 2013	11.00	10.76	10.30	12.21	12.10	11.91
January 6-12, 2013.....	10.88	10.90	10.46	12.17	11.85	12.02
October 7-13, 2012.....	10.24	10.41	9.79	11.38	11.72	11.75
July 8-14, 2012.....	10.47	10.23	9.63	11.15	11.61	11.36
April 8-14, 2012.....	11.56	10.13	10.27	10.05	11.81	11.41
January 8-14, 2012.....	11.43	10.53	10.67	10.75	11.38	11.52

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.